

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-97 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, 28, 35, 42, 52, 59, 66, 74, and 82 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the title, specification, and Claims 1-15, and added new Claims 16-97. No new matter has been added.

The title of the invention stands objected to as not being descriptive. Applicant submits that the new title is descriptive.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 (Owa, et al.). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Each of independent Claims 1, 8, and 15, generally recites that an image output control apparatus is controlled to select an allotted outputting mode in which output processing of the input data is allotted to plural image output devices. The system obtains output medium information stored in each image output device that should be used in the allotted outputting mode. On the basis of the obtained output medium information, it is judged whether or not each of the selected plural image output devices stores the same size output medium.

Thus, as recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15, the present invention is generally directed to an outputting mode in which the image output is allotted to plural image output devices, wherein it is judged whether each of the plural image output devices stores the same size output medium.

Owa, et al. is directed to a printing system for selecting an optimum printer for printing. Specifically, that patent describes a system that includes a PC and a plurality of printers connected thereto. The system is arranged so as to select an optimum one of the plurality of printers to print data from the PC. This selection process is discussed in Owa, et al. at, for example, column 7, lines 4-11.

Applicant submits that Owa, et al. fails to disclose an allotted outputting mode in which data is allotted to plural output devices. More specifically, Applicant submits that Owa, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of selecting an allotted outputting mode in which output processing of the input data is allotted to plural image output devices, and judging whether or not the plural image output devices that should be used in the allotted outputting mode store the same-sized output medium, as generally recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Applicant submits the new independent claims are allowable Owa, et al. for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. In particular, with respect to new independent Claims 16 and 52, Applicant notes that those claims recite a system which accepts a user instruction to cause a local device and an other image output device to start an allotted printing operation, and controls the allotted printing operation so that when the same output medium is set in both of the local device and the other image output device, the allotted printing operation is permitted, and when the same output medium is not set in both devices, output is inhibited.

New independent Claims 22 and 59 are generally directed to controlling execution and inhibition of an allotted printing operation in a local device and an other output device

in accordance with whether or not an output medium of the same size is set in both of the local device and the other image output device.

New independent Claims 28 and 66 are generally directed to a system that controls execution and inhibition of an allotted printing operation in a local device and an other image output device in accordance with whether or not an output medium of the same type is set in each of the devices.

New independent Claims 35 and 74 are generally directed to a system arranged so as to control execution and inhibition of an allotted printing operation in a local device and an other image output device in accordance with whether or not the output medium has both the same size and the same type in each of the local device and the other image output device.

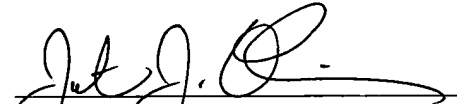
New independent Claims 42 and 82 are generally directed to controlling execution and inhibition of an allotted printing operation in a local device and an other image output device in accordance with whether or not a certain source is set in both of the local device and the other image output device.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the above-discussed independent claims, and thus are patentable over the applied document for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied document. Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration thereof.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and allowance of this case.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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